



**California Public Utilities Commission**  
**505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **CPUC ISSUES CITATION TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY FOR SAFETY CODE VIOLATIONS**

SAN FRANCISCO, February 1, 2019 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today issued a staff Citation of \$3.3 million to Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) for failure to properly and timely investigate a gas incident that occurred on January 20, 2017, in Ontario, Calif.

The underlying incident involved a SoCalGas leaking pipeline and a subsequent ignition/explosion with an injury. The CPUC's staff investigation remains active because of SoCalGas' failure to properly determine the cause(s) of the failure and minimize the possibility of recurrence in accordance with federal code, SoCalGas' own procedures, and the Public Utilities Code.

Despite a directive from the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) in November 2018, and subsequent agreement by SED and SoCalGas to test the pipeline on January 10, 2019, SoCalGas unilaterally cancelled the agreement and informally notified SED that they will not test until their civil settlements are complete. SED finds SoCalGas' reason for not performing the test insufficient, as they are putting civil litigation exposure in front of public safety. From SED's perspective, SoCalGas remains in continuing violation until they properly test the failed pipeline to determine cause and ensure sufficient corrective actions.

Throughout the incident investigation, SoCalGas did not take adequate investigative steps and cooperate with the SED to prevent recurrence as required by law. Therefore, SED found SoCalGas in violations of CPUC General Order 112-F, Title 49 CFR section 192.13(c), and Public Utilities Code sections 702, 451.

Information about the Citation is available at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=2494>.



SoCalGas has 30 calendar days from receipt of the Citation to pay or file an appeal.

SED has staff-level authority to issue Citations to regulated gas companies for violation of CPUC codes and regulations.

Safety violations are identified through SED's ongoing audits, inspections, and investigations; by the utilities themselves through mandatory disclosure requirements; or through the CPUC's whistleblower program for anonymous and protected reporting of violations. Whistleblowers can call 1-800-649-7570 or email [safetyhotline@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:safetyhotline@cpuc.ca.gov). The CPUC also has an online whistleblower reporting form at <https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/whblow/> where complaints can be submitted anonymously.

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

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